



Giessen MP killed by drunk driver

Iraqi Freedom Soldier dies while on leave in the States

By Alexandra Williams
284th Base Support Battalion
Public Affairs Office

The joy of being back from Iraq came to a sudden end for Soldiers of the 527th Military Police Company when they learned a fellow Giessen MP, Pfc. George J. Elias, was killed in a car accident March 20.

Elias had gone home on leave to Allentown, Pa., after returning from the yearlong deployment to Iraq.

"On the night of the accident George wanted to go out and asked his (German) girlfriend Christine, who accompanied him on the trip, if she wanted to come along. She didn't feel like going out, so George, one of his cousins and two other friends decided to have a boys night out," said Elias' best friend, Pfc. Brian Shaw, also a member of the 527th MP Company. "As they were driving, a truck with no lights on driven by a drunk driver who ignored their right of way hit the side of their car. All four boys were killed instantly. The driver later claimed that he could not remember a thing about that night.

"His father called me that night," Shaw said. "George and I both went home on leave together. I knew his dad from the deployment because he came to visit George in Iraq. His entire family has seen me on videotapes George sent home, so in a way they all knew me and they wanted me to know what happened.

"Both of our families met the day we came home on leave. George and I arrived at the same airport, but because our flight was delayed, our families somehow

met while waiting for us," Shaw said. "I remember how the two of us put on our Desert Camouflage Uniforms in the plane so our families could see us in them. George was so proud that he was able to serve his country during the war.

"Having known George for one year has been like knowing him for a lifetime. I will miss him," he said.

"I arrived here in December 2002, and during my first week I met George. He just came up to me and asked me for my name and if I wanted to go out with him and his girlfriend. Ever since that time we were friends. We could not always hang out together in Iraq, but after we returned we were always together," he said.

"George was very generous with his friendship and companionship. He was always in good spirits, a wisecracker and someone who would always stick up for you.



Pfc. George Elias

he wanted to do was serve his country. He had planned to go to college and earn a business degree to go into business with his father."

"George was already here when I came to the 527th, and I didn't really know him then," said Pfc. Kristi Grant, a friend and fellow member of the unit. "We got to know each other when we deployed. We became one team and we talked about everything. He always talked about his German girlfriend Christine. He loved her so much.

"George and I survived five Improvised Explosive Device at-

See MP killed on page 3



Photo by Dennis Johnson

So good to be home

Lt. Col. Jay Larsen, 4th Brigade executive officer, gets a group hug from his wife Liz, daughter Grace and son Jake at a welcome home event in a hangar on Fliegerhorst Kaserne April 5. About 78 4th Brigade Soldiers, many from 1-501st and 2-501st Aviation, marched across the airfield to be greeted by Soldiers and family members. See pages 22 and 23 of this issue for more homecomings in Büdingen and Hanau.

Safeguarding water supply

Experts join forces to test response in the case of a terrorist incident

By Karl Weisel

104th Area Support Group Public Affairs Office

Several residents of a military housing area notice a funny taste in their tap water. A dozen individuals from a nearby barracks report for sick call at their local health clinic with gastro-intestinal complaints.

Are these simply isolated cases or do they indicate a greater threat to the local water supply? Could they be the first signs of a terrorist attack? Who needs to be notified and what steps must be taken to ensure everything is done to prevent the incident from turning catastrophic?

U.S. military and host nation authorities from throughout the 104th Area Support Group, Rheinland-Pfalz and Hessen teamed

up in late March for a series of day-long tabletop exercises at each of the base support battalions to examine and streamline all aspects of the ASG's Water Emergency Contingency Plan.

"A lot of good things were learned — a lot of great contacts were made," said Lt. Col. Howard Malone, project team leader and the 104th ASG's provost marshal. "Knowing who to call, who that person is on the other end, when an actual emergency occurs, was an important part of the exercise."

Reacting quickly to prevent further illness and contamination of the water supply would be crucial in the case of terrorist tampering, said James Boyle, 104th ASG govern-

See Safeguarding water supply on page 4

News flash

Traffic fine hike

Many traffic rules changed in Germany on April 1. Among the revised fines are: Making a call while driving without a "no-hands" phone system will now cost €40 and two points against U.S. Army Europe licenses; Cyclists must pay €25 when caught phoning while cycling; €40 fine for parking your car in a way that could prevent rescue vehicles from getting through a narrow street; €20 fine for going the wrong way around a traffic circle; €40 fine for passing another vehicle at a speed which is not significantly higher than the vehicle being passed. German police have announced they will increase checks this month to encourage people to drive safely. (IMA-E Public Affairs)

Priority Placement briefings

Priority Placement Program briefings will be held April 26 from 8-10 a.m. at Wiesbaden's Flyers Theater at the Wiesbaden Army Airfield and April 27 from 2-4 p.m. at Hanau's Evening Star Theater on Pioneer Kaserne. Management officials and supervisors of Department of Defense civilian employees, organizational points of contact and employees whose tour in U.S. Army Europe is expected to end within the next 12 months should attend the briefing. It will address registration eligibility, referral priorities, high and low registration grades, skills selection, area of referral, job offers, pay retention and reimbursement of moving expenses. Call mil 322-1430 for more information. (Courtesy of the Civilian Personnel Advisory Center Hanau)

Reward for missing truck

A \$5,000 reward is offered for information leading to the arrest and conviction of persons responsible for the theft of an Army M35A3 two-and-a-half ton truck stolen March 30 at around 6 a.m. from the Mainz Industrial Park. The stolen vehicle, with bumper number 92-43, serial number 503771, is valued at approximately \$56,500. Anyone with information is encouraged to call the Military or German police immediately. (USAREUR Public Affairs)

Inside

Reader feedback

"It's a free-for-all now with all the words that are acceptable. They are interfering with the training of my children. I'm trying to teach them right and here they are telling them it's all right to cuss," said Lt. Col. Doris Burch in this week's feedback on radio and television regulation. See page 2.



Improving a school in Iraq

Wiesbaden Soldiers celebrate primary school reopening after fixup. See page 6.



Commentary

Feedback: Should radio and television have more regulation?



Jill Watson
Baumholder family member

"Yes, I think programming should be regulated. It's arbitrary where you set the line, but you should not be able to attack someone's character without that person being able to defend him or herself."



Pvt. 2 Cassius Verniege
Company B, 501st Forward Support Battalion

"No, I don't think it should be regulated more. Everyone should have the right to say what he or she wants. But those using their freedom of speech should remember that they can prove their point without hurting anyone."



Spc. Kristoffer Underwood
1st Armored Division Engineer Brigade

"No, it shouldn't be regulated more. We all have the freedom to reach and turn the channel if there is something on TV that we don't like. Anyone on TV should have enough common sense to stay within reason when he or she makes a statement, whether it's about news or people."



Staff Sgt. Shirley Atma
**Headquarters and Headquarters Company,
Division Support Command**

"No. Parents should be responsible for monitoring what their children watch. If you buy a television you know what you're getting into and should be responsible for monitoring what you watch or listen to."



Anthony Buckley
**221st Base Support Battalion
Child Development Center**

"Yes. Stuff that's on the air now is not appropriate for children and can be offensive at times."

Bell sends: No place for sexual assault in the U.S. Army

**By Gen.
B.B. Bell**
*U.S. Army Europe
commander*



Sexual assault is a violent crime that has no place in our Army. It is incompatible with our Army values and our standards of professionalism and discipline.

Allegations of sexual assault will be investigated promptly and impartially and resolved expeditiously. Leaders at all levels are responsible for providing a safe and healthy environment for those in their charge and must take action to prevent sexual assault, protect and support victims, and hold offenders accountable by taking all appropriate administrative and judicial actions based on the facts and circumstances of each case.

Leaders must understand their inherent responsibility to respond — compassionately but resolutely — to allegations of sexual assault in their units. Commanders will conduct effective and meaningful preventive sexual harassment training as prescribed by AR 600-20.

Sexual assault is the second most reported felony in the Army in Europe. Common factors in cases of sexual assault include the following:

- ★ Young Soldiers (private through specialist) are the most likely victims and perpetrators.

- ★ 76 percent of sexual assaults (including rape) occur in unlocked barracks or government quarters.

- ★ 74 percent of sexual assaults (including rape) involve alcohol.

- ★ 50 percent of the rape victims know the alleged offender.

- ★ Most sexual assaults occur between 1 a.m. and 5 a.m. on Fridays and Saturdays.

Leaders can influence many of the above factors through proactive preventive measures and education. Commanders can provide rape-prevention and alcohol-awareness training, implement more stringent barracks policy, and increase the presence of unit leadership during high-risk periods. Leaders, Equal Opportunity advisers, and Equal Opportunity leaders are encouraged to frequent places where Soldiers socialize. Commanders will ensure unit leaders understand the

seriousness and potential consequences of sexual assault, and know the proper procedures for referring victims for medical treatment and counseling, and for obtaining victim-witness liaison in a timely manner.

Victims of sexual assault must be helped and protected. I want victims to know that they have the following rights:

- ★ The right to be treated with fairness and with respect for their dignity and privacy.

- ★ The right to immediate and effective medical care and attention, including long-term follow-up.

- ★ The right to be reasonably protected from the accused offender.

- ★ The right to be notified of court proceedings.

- ★ The right to be present at all public court proceedings related to the offense (unless the court determines otherwise).

- ★ The right to talk with the attorney for the government in the case.

- ★ The right to seek damages in certain cases.

- ★ The right to information about the conviction, sentencing, imprisonment and release of the offender.

Commanders must ensure that victims are aware of the personnel and agencies available in the command and community to help them through their difficult ordeal. These include, but are not limited to law-enforcement officials, medical providers (social workers, psychologists and psychiatrists), community-based services available through Army Community Service, and spiritual and faith-based counseling from Family Life chaplains.

Victims deserve professional, competent, and compassionate assistance, including long-term follow-up. These services must be made available immediately to the victim following the allegation, regardless of the status of the criminal or command investigation.

Every member of our team deserves to be treated with dignity and respect. I want to ensure that you understand our responsibility and share my concern for the safety of the people who live and work in our communities.

A vigorous Public Affairs and command information program will begin in the upcoming weeks to emphasize why this issue deserves our utmost attention. Use this program to reinforce our continued commitment to the well-being of our force.

Send letters to the editor

Want to share your thoughts or observations with fellow readers? How about taking a few moments to write them down and shooting them our way via MPS mail or email? See the addresses below.

Herald Union

The Herald Union is an authorized unofficial Army newspaper published under the provisions of AR 360-1 for members of the 104th Area Support Group. Contents of the Herald Union are not necessarily the official views of, nor endorsed by, the U.S. government or the Department of Defense. The editorial content is the responsibility of the 104th Area Support Group Public Affairs Office. No payment will be made for contributions. This is a biweekly publication printed by The Stars and Stripes in Griesheim, Germany. Our office is in Building 1205 on Hanau's Yorkhof Kaserne. Circulation is 13,000 copies. For advertising rates contact Fred Schneider at civ (06155) 601-295, mil 349-8295 or schneiderf@mail.estripes.osd.mil.

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News and features

News flash

Retention control

The Army, in an effort to retain more experienced noncommissioned officers, has extended the number of years it allows selected staff sergeants to continue to serve in their current pay grade. The previous retention control point was 20 years, but it has been raised to 22 years provided the Soldier has an estimated time of separation from military service date on or before Sept. 30, 2005, and is not in military occupational specialty of 14R, 14S or 42L. Those specialties are over strength. Soldiers whose records do not indicate they have an approved retirement and whose current ETS is on or before Sept. 30, 2005, will have their ETS date automatically adjusted to their new RCP by the Human Resources Command. Soldiers who have an approved retirement date may either request retirement to be withdrawn or ensure their assignment eligibility and availability code is updated and see their career counselor to have their ETS date changed back to the approved retirement date. Contact your personnel office for more information. (USAREUR Public Affairs)

Free tickets for Soldiers

Hundreds of free tickets for sporting events, swimming pools, museums and other local opportunities donated by the Hessen State Chancellory for redeploying Operation Iraqi Freedom Soldiers and their families have been distributed to locations in the 221st, 284th and 414th Base Support Battalions. Pick up locations are the Wiesbaden USO at the Welcome Center on Wiesbaden Army Airfield (Building 1023 West, call mil 337-5806), Friedberg Army Community Service on Ray Barracks (Building 3608, call mil 324-3465), Giessen Army Community Service on the Giessen Depot (Building 3, Room 106, call mil 343-7618) and Hanau Army Community Service on Pioneer Kaserne (Building 9, call mil 322-9524).

Donation aids Iraqi doctors

Professor Dr. Jürgen Meyer of the University Klinik, Mainz donated a 30-year supply of medical journals, valued at \$50,000, to the U.S. military to be turned over to the University Clinic in Baghdad. James Federline of the U.S. Forces Liaison Office for Hessen, Norddeutschland and Thüringen, and Eckhart Schneider-Reuter, both members of the Friendship Circle Mainz-Louisville, arranged for and picked up the journals to be shipped to a U.S. unit in Iraq for distribution to the Iraqi university. The medical journals are desperately needed, said Federline, as items of that nature were unavailable under the Saddam Hussein regime.

Medical Ball to be held May 27

The 2004 European Army Medical Department Regimental Ball will be held May 27 at 6 p.m. at the Village Pavilion in Heidelberg's Patrick Henry Village. All friends of the Army Medical Department are invited. Cost is \$25 for military officers, civilians GS-9s/C-6s/enlisted Soldiers E-7 and above; \$20 for civilians GS-8/C-5a/enlisted Soldiers E-6 and below. Make payment and meal selection by April 16. Call 1st Lt. La'Shonia White or Master Sgt. Skelton at mil 371-2978, civ (06221) 17-3250. (Europe Army Regional Medical Command Public Affairs)

Employee course

The Civilian Human Resources Management Agency hosts a course titled "Using Emotional Intelligence in the Workplace" at Baumholder's Smith Kaserne Building 8280 and the Wiesbaden Army Airfield Building 1638 April 20 from 8:15 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Learn to help others, handle setbacks constructively, assess feelings and reactions of others, to consider your decision's emotional impact on others and to improve your reputation as a solid leader. Browse on the Internet to www.chrma.hqusareur.army.mil and click on "training opportunities" for more information. (CHRMA Release)

Apply now for Summer Hire

Community youths of the 104th Area Support Group have the opportunity to earn job experience and a salary during the summer months. This year's Summer Hire Program, for young people age 14-23, runs from June 28 to Aug. 6.

Participants in the program must be unmarried family members of an active military member or Department of the Army civilian who will turn age 14 by June 28 and will not turn 24 before Aug. 6. They must have a valid DoD ID card. U.S. citizens must also have a valid passport.

Clerical, labor and child development jobs are available as part of the Summer Hire program. Candidates interested in working in child development positions must be at least 16 years old.

"The Summer Hire program is designed to provide young people with an opportunity to gain meaningful work experience," according to Civilian Human Resource Management Agency officials.

Salary for Summer Hire has not yet been determined, but it will not be less than \$5.14 per hour, CHRMA officials said.

Young people can apply for Summer Hire by submitting an online automated web application form at the CHRMA website, www.chrma.hqusareur.army.mil. The deadline to submit applications is May 7.

Inprocessing forms which can be downloaded on the CHRMA website should be submitted to local Civilian Personnel Advisory Centers in Hanau (Building 1204 on Yorkhof Kaserne), Wiesbaden (Building 1023 East, third floor, Room 302 on Wiesbaden Army Airfield), or Baumholder (Ausweiler Str. 1, second floor).

For more information about the Summer Hire program visit the CHRMA website or call the Hanau CPAC Summer Hire coordinator at mil 323-9128.

Wackernheim-based unit

Army to inactivate 1-4th ADA

The 1st Battalion, 4th Air Defense Artillery, located in Wackernheim, has been designated for inactivation by Sept. 30 as part of the Department of the Army's initiative to rebalance forces between its active and Reserve components.

The 1-4th ADA, a component of the 1st Armored Division, is the first U.S. Army Europe unit affected under this plan. As a part of the initiative, air defense artillery battalions in all 10 active-duty Army divisions will be removed from the division structure. The 4-3rd ADA, 1st Infantry Division, based in Kitzingen, will be inactivated or realigned sometime after its redeployment to Germany from Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2005.

The USAREUR chain of command has notified 1-4th ADA Soldiers and their family members about this inactivation so they can be prepared and involved in the process.

The USAREUR command is concerned with the well-being of these Soldiers and their family members, and is working to ensure that their individual needs are met during this process. Great care is being taken to relocate affected

MP killed

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tacks and several ambushes," said Grant. "We were so happy when we redeployed to Germany. It was good to be back in a safe environment. I still can't believe that he is no longer around. He survived a rough year in Iraq and gets killed at home by a drunk driver. Right now it still feels to me as if he is just on leave and hasn't come back yet."

"Pfc. Elias will be greatly missed by all of us. He believed that the Iraqis needed a solid foundation and he told me that he was so proud to be part of that. We all liked him a lot," said



Photo by Dennis Johnson

The Sounds of Africa

Second- and third-graders at Hanau's Argonner Elementary School sing during the Sounds of Africa assembly, a special presentation at the school March 25. The youths shared their musical talents and knowledge with the student body, teachers and interested parents.

Soldiers and families during the summer months whenever possible, following the unit's reintegration and block leave after its return from Iraq.

USAREUR end strength, based on this action, is expected to remain virtually unchanged at approximately 62,000 Soldiers, on account of incremental troop adjustments over the next two years. About 100,000 Soldier positions are being reallocated Army-wide to more relevant skills and units across all components, active and Reserve, to best enhance the nation's capability to fight the Global War on Terrorism.

This action is a part of ongoing Army-wide force development activities and is not related to current considerations regarding the Integrated Global Presence and Basing Strategy initiative.

This unit inactivation will not directly affect local national positions at McCulley Barracks, although garrison functions may be re-evaluated and any possible realignment will be made in accordance with host nation notification rules. (U.S. Army Europe Public Affairs Release)

Capt. William Rodgers, 527th MP Company commander, during a memorial service March 31 at the Giessen Chapel.

"Pfc. Elias accomplished a lot in a short time. He was a great Soldier," said Lt. Col. John Garrity, 709th MP Battalion commander. "He made the difference in many people's lives and he will be missed. But it's better to know and to lose him than to never have known him. Pfc. George Elias we love you and we will never forget you."

Elias is survived by his parents Joseph and Nizha Elias, two brothers and a sister.

News and features

Soldiers, Iraqi students exchange ideas

University forum brings people together to share views

By Cpl. Benjamin Cossel
122nd Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

Students of Mustansirihya University exchanged ideas among themselves and leaders from the Coalition Provisional Authority and Task Force 1st Armored Division during an open forum held at Baghdad University March 29.

"It's important that students are able to talk to those



Photo courtesy of 1st AD Public Affairs

Students of Mustansirihya University participate in a forum held at Baghdad University. The forum gave students the opportunity to ask questions of an assembled panel made up of commanders from the 1st Armored Division and a representative of the Coalition Provisional Authority.

individuals who can provide them answers with their concerns about the university, the interim constitution and other issues they may be facing," said forum moderator Maj. Robert Davis, 1st Brigade Combat Team information officer.

Responding to the students' questions was a four-member panel: Ed White, Coalition Provisional Authority ambassador; Maj. Gen. Martin Dempsey, 1st Armored Division commander; Col. Peter Mansoor, 1st Brigade commander; and Lt. Col. John Kem, 16th Engineer Battalion commander.

'Spirited exchange'

"I look forward to a spirited exchange where we encourage you to ask any questions that may be on your mind," Mansoor said in opening remarks to the forum.

More than 100 students attended the meeting. Their questions ranged from security of the university, withdrawal of American forces from Iraq, current curriculum standards and the status of basic infrastructure services such as power and water.

Students spoke with zeal on each of these issues, but the absence of the Iraqi flag provoked the most heated exchange.

"How can you not call this an occupation? How can you call us a free Iraq when only the American flag stands behind you?" asked one student.

The admitted mistake would prove to be a significant issue as several student speakers commented on the absence of the flag. After the fourth student raised the issue, Mansoor explained the error.

This was the third student forum held, he said. During the

previous two, the Iraqi flag had stood next to the American flag. The location of the present forum had moved from its originally planned location at Mustansirihya University to Baghdad University and arrangements to display both flags had been overlooked.

"There wasn't an Iraqi flag at the facility," Mansoor said. "Its absence was a regrettable error. No offense was intended."

While engaging the panel in discussion, students also took the opportunity to address their peers.

"I for one would like to thank the coalition for all that they have done," said an engineering student. "I disagree with many (the students) that (coalition forces) should leave Iraq immediately. We are not yet ready to stand on our own."

The comment launched the student body into a heated discussion until the forum moderator re-established control and got the meeting back on track.

After an hour of discussion the forum broke for refreshments and gave the students an opportunity for worship. Reconvening half an hour later, a smaller audience picked up where it left off, engaging the panel for an additional 45 minutes.

Davis, bringing the forum to a close, thanked the students and the panel members for their attendance and time, and offered hope that forums of this nature would continue in the future.

"There are many people who would intimidate you to think a certain way," Dempsey told the students. "It is important to note, we don't care what you think, as long as you are free to come to that conclusion on your own."

Safeguarding water supply

Continued from page 1

ment relations officer. "Waiting to get the results back from medical tests at a local medical facility could mean having a disaster on your hands. While waiting for those test results you've got to make some hard decisions," said Boyle. Having a means of reporting potential warning signs to the appropriate responders is vitally important.

While the first impulse in the case of suspected contaminated water might be to immediately shut down the water supply, it could have disastrous consequences. "When talking to the experts you realize that turning it off is not the best solution," said Boyle. Officials pointed out that by not immediately flushing out the water supply or treating contaminated water, worse contamination could occur, firefighters would be deprived of water when more terrorism might be in the works and a chain reaction of other contingencies could occur with a water shutdown.

"We've always had contingency plans, but with the terrorist attacks on Sept. 11, 2001, it was brought to the forefront," said Mark Crawford, 104th ASG deputy director of public works. "Back in the fall of 2001 we were funded to do contingency planning."

The first step was to draw up the plans and to identify all of the crucial players, he said. An exercise in December 2002 brought the appropriate specialists from the U.S. Army and host nation together to iron out details in the plan.

"One of the most important parts of that exercise was finding out our counterparts on the host nation side already have done their own crisis management. Members of the U.S. fire departments are trained and equipped as



Photo by Dennis Johnson

U.S. military and host nation authorities meet to work out details of the Water Emergency Contingency Plan during tabletop exercises in each of the BSBs in late March.

first responders, but we will request host nation assistance in a major incident. So it was a kind of crosswalk for us," said Boyle.

The most recent exercise raised the bar another level ensuring more of the major players from the various response organizations came face to face at each location. "I was very pleased at the interaction," said Boyle. "What's especially valuable is that many of the people on our work force are local nationals, so they were able to get to the specifics with their counterparts very

quickly."

Another valuable tool in this exercise was having translators on hand and the plan available in both English and German, courtesy of the Camp Dresser and McKee consulting firm, which prepared the plan, officials said. "They actually developed the plan for us," said Crawford. "They were on the ground and made all of the initial contacts. It was really great teamwork."

"For me it was very good that they did this exercise in English and German," said Werner

Schneider, chief of utilities for the 222nd BSB's DPW. "Last year when we had the first exercise it was only in English and the visitors who came left early because they did not understand anything. This year they stayed because it was bilingual."

"The Army has this approach of 'crawl, walk and run,'" said Malone. "Last year we crawled and this year we did a brisk walk."

"Maybe next year we should try the run," said Malone, explaining that a full-blown exercise where U.S. military and host nation responders could test their capabilities during a staged event would more fully put the plan through its paces.

"A key benefit of this exercise was that in the end, we can look forward to better cooperation between German and American water suppliers," said Bianca

Bowen, of the 222nd BSB's S-2 shop. "It was also an excellent opportunity to sit down and meet your counterpart — putting a face to a name or meeting him or her for the first time."

"I think this was a great steppingstone to the next go-round," said Crawford. "We considered it much more of a success than the 2002 exercise because of the greater number of participants and the greater number of entities involved."

"We haven't had any attacks on our water supply, but we need to be prepared," he added. (Ignacio Rubalcava contributed to this story)

"We've always had contingency plans, but with the terrorist attacks on Sept. 11, 2001, it was brought to the forefront."

Measles cases spur immunization drive

By Cassandra Kardeke
221st Base Support Battalion
Public Affairs Office

Three cases of measles have been confirmed in the Wiesbaden area, according to health clinic officials at Wiesbaden Army Airfield.

All three cases occurred in young children who were not immunized against the virus.

“Measles is a respiratory disease caused by a virus that normally grows in the cells that line the back of the throat and lungs,” said Lt. Col. Ronald Keen, health clinic commander. Although the disease is preventable through vaccination, more than 700

cases were reported in German communities last year and only 44 cases in the United States.

“There is no reason for the community to become unnecessarily alarmed, but we do want to ensure the local population, especially our children, is protected from this disease,” said Capt. Doug Badzik, a family practice physician at the clinic. “The vaccine will help do that. We want parents to be aware and to ensure their child is vaccinated.”

According to Keen, the clinic is planning a vaccination campaign April 16 for children who are older than six months of age who have not received the vaccine and any

child older than 12 months who has received only one dose of the vaccine at least four weeks ago. An immunoglobulin is recommended for people with compromised immune systems including those with HIV, on chemotherapy and pregnant women who have had known contact with someone with measles and have had no known previous measles immunization. Keen said there will be a dedicated staff at the health clinic for the next two weeks prepared to vaccinate any person meeting the criteria for the vaccination.

The vaccine, typically referred to as the MMR, is a combination

“Measles spreads so easily that any one who is not immunized will probably get it eventually.” — Lt. Col. Ronald Keen, Wiesbaden Health Clinic commander

vaccine that protects against measles, mumps and rubella viruses. Licensed in 1971, it contains the safest and most effective forms of each vaccine and lasts a lifetime in approximately 95 percent

of children who receive it. A second dosage of the vaccine is recommended to protect those 5 percent who did not develop immunity in the first dose and to give a “booster” effect to those who did develop an immune response. The first dose of the vaccine is recommended for children 12-15 months of age with a second dose between 4-6 years of age.

“Measles is highly contagious and can be spread by a person to 90 percent of their susceptible close



Photo courtesy of the American Academy of Pediatrics
The measles rash on the chest of a young boy on day three of the outbreak of the rash. Stop by the Wiesbaden Health Clinic to ensure your child is immunized.

contacts,” said Badzik. Typically spread by coughing or sneezing, it can be transmitted up to four days

before the onset of the rash to four days after the rash appears. The virus itself resides in the mucus in the nose and throat of an infected person. When that person sneezes or coughs, droplets spray into the air. The infected mucus can land in other people’s noses or throats when they breathe or put their fingers in the mouth or nose after handling an infected surface. The virus remains active and contagious on infected surfaces for up to two hours.

“Measles spreads so easily that anyone who is not immunized will probably get it eventually,” said Keen.

Symptoms such as a rash, high fever, cough, runny nose and red, watery eyes can begin to appear 10-12 days after exposure to the virus and last about a week. The infected person first experiences a fever that

can last up to four days and peak as high as 105 degrees Fahrenheit. This is followed by the onset of a cough, runny nose and/or pink eye. The rash then can appear 14 days after exposure and last up to a week. The rash typically begins in the hairline and then moves down to the face and upper neck then down and outward reaching the hands and feet.

To prevent from being infected, ensure you and your children are immunized. The Wiesbaden Immunization Clinic is open from 8-11:30 a.m. Monday through Wednesday; 1-4 p.m. Monday, Wednesday and Thursday; and from 1-5:30 p.m. Tuesday. If you are unsure whether or not your child has already received the vaccination, contact your primary health care provider or the Immunization Clinic at mil 337-5273 or civ (0611) 705-5273.



Photo by Nicholaus Kardeke

Jazzing up the show

Kevin and the Jazz Band make an encore performance during the Army and Air Force Exchange Service Gong Show April 1 at the Hainerberg Food Court. More than 12 performers varying in ages and acts gave their best shots at the grand prize of \$200 which was awarded to the winning group, Kevin and the Jazz Band.